

## **Testimony in Support of HB1582**

### **House Bill 1582 – Accountability System – Maryland School Report Card**

Maryland General Assembly

Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee,

My name is Jason Miller, and I serve as an elementary school principal in Salisbury, Maryland. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 1582, the COMPASS Act, which represents an important step toward modernizing the Maryland School Report Card.

I had the privilege of serving on both the Maryland Assessment and Accountability Task Force and the Maryland Accountability Advisory Committee. Through this work, I participated in extensive discussions with a diverse group of stakeholders about how to improve our accountability system so it more accurately reflects the work happening in schools and the progress students are making.

House Bill 1582 makes thoughtful and targeted statutory adjustments that will allow the Maryland State Department of Education to strengthen the accountability system. These changes include expanding potential school quality indicators, adjusting composite score weighting, ensuring accountability measures extend beyond standardized testing, and clarifying limitations related to teacher evaluations within the system. While these are modest statutory changes, they provide the flexibility needed to improve how school performance is measured and communicated to the public.

Most importantly, this bill will help ensure that the accountability system places greater emphasis on student growth and continuous improvement. As educators, we know that progress matters. A system that recognizes growth alongside achievement provides a more accurate picture of how schools are supporting students, particularly those who enter classrooms at different starting points.

The recommendations reflected in this legislation were not developed in isolation. Over the past two years, the Maryland State Department of Education has engaged stakeholders across the state in meaningful collaboration. The task force and advisory committee included the State Superintendent, assistant state superintendent, chief of accountability, district superintendents, chief academic officers, supervisors of assessment and accountability, principals, higher education representatives, a member of the State Board of Education, a representative from the Maryland State Education Association, and the director of multilingual education. This broad coalition of educators and leaders worked together to ensure the proposed updates are thoughtful, balanced, and aligned with the goals of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

Additionally, the proposal has received broad stakeholder support, including from the Maryland State Education Association. That level of consensus reflects a shared understanding that Maryland's accountability system must evolve to better support schools and provide clearer information to families and communities.

With the flexibility granted to MSDE through HB1582, Maryland will be able to refine the School Report Card so it more accurately reflects school performance, emphasizes student growth, and better supports continuous improvement across our schools.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to give HB1582 a favorable report.

Thank you for your time and for your continued commitment to Maryland's students and educators.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason L. Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jason L. Miller  
Principal